



Energy Consents Unit

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29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Your Ref: ECU00002132

Our Ref: LT137/s37

Dear Sirs,

**Proposed 400kV reinforcement works**

**Electricity Act 1989 and The Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990**

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (SHE Transmission Plc) is pleased to submit to the Scottish Ministers this application for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and deemed planning consent under Section 57(2) of The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The application is for the the upgrading of approximately 168km of the existing 275kV overhead line (OHL) between Tower 559R's tie in with Kintore substation and our Licence Boundary at Blairingone (east of Stirling) at the mid span between Tower 33 and 34.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been submitted in support of the application.

**EIA Scoping**

The proposed development falls into Schedule 1 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 so no screening was undertaken. Instead, a Scoping Briefing Note was prepared and submitted to a number of key statutory stakeholders to initiate discussions on the scope of the EIAR. The feedback obtained through this consultation informed the content and the structure of the Scoping Report.

A Request for Scoping Opinion was subsequently submitted to Scottish Ministers on 22nd May 2020 on the environmental information to be provided in the EIAR. A Scoping Opinion was issued by the Scottish Ministers in August 2020. The responses, contained within the Scoping Opinion, were considered in detail during the EIA process.

Following the EIA Scoping consultation, a change in the design to include tower height extension works to 19 towers necessitated re-consultation with the ECU and key stakeholders. A Tower Extension Scoping Consultation letter was issued on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 (Tower Extension Consultation 1) to statutory stakeholders and other key stakeholders who had noted an interest in the height of the towers during the original scoping consultation. Subsequently, further design work identified a need to increase the number of towers which require extending to 73. Therefore, follow up consultation with the same stakeholders was undertaken on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (Tower Extension Consultation 2). The tower extension scoping consultees and their response status are detailed in the EIAR.

### **Gatecheck Report**

A gatecheck (Appendix 4.4) was submitted to the ECU on 13<sup>th</sup> November to finalise wider consultation on the Scoping Report as noted above. This was subsequently updated after recent discussion with yourselves.

### **Proposed Development**

The Proposed Development comprises:

- replacement of conductors, insulators and fittings on the existing steel lattice towers;
- re-sagging of the existing Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) (i.e. the 'earthwire' on top of the tower);
- where required, tower condition works including steelwork and tower leg foundation work to strengthen the existing steel lattice towers; and
- height extensions to a maximum of 73 existing steel lattice towers to maintain the required operational ground clearances following the replacement of conductors and insulators.

The Proposed Development interfaces with the following existing and proposed substations as shown in Figure 1.1: Location Plan and Overview. All proposed works described below form part of the overall upgrade but are being progressed separately and do not form part of this EIA or application for consent:

- the proposed Kintore 400 kV substation extension, Aberdeenshire, and tie-in of the existing Kintore to Fetteresso double-circuit 275 kV OHL Route into this new substation extension (planning consent granted at Aberdeenshire Full Council on 14/01/2021 under ref: APP/2020/1437 and s37 consent granted by Energy Consents Unit on 18/12/2020 under ref: ECU00002100);
- minor works to upgrade the existing Fetteresso 132 / 275 kV substation, Aberdeenshire to 400/132kV operation; and
- the proposed Alyth 275 / 400 kV, Perth and Kinross, and tie-in of the existing doublecircuit 275 kV OHL into this substation substation (consent granted by Perth

and Kinross Council 26/06/2020 under ref: 19/01092/FLN and Energy Consents Unit on 25/03/2020 under ref: ECU00001952).

### **Limit of deviation**

This application seeks consent for a vertical limit of deviation of 10% only in terms of the towers which are proposed to be increased in height.

### **Ancillary development**

Associated works required to facilitate the Proposed Development would include vegetation clearance, access track upgrades, temporary site compounds, and temporary measures to protect the road, rail and water crossings. Furthermore, an increase in clearance to vegetation is required as a result of the increased OHL voltage from 275 kV to 400 kV, and this area also forms part of the Proposed Development. A tree resilience survey is being conducted to minimise the additional felling required. Temporary diversion of the existing line are also required for a period of less than 6 months.

### **Wayleaves**

Necessary Wayleaves are to be progressed simultaneously with the s37 application. At the time of submission, 21 day notices have been submitted and 25 necessary wayleave applications are being progressed.

### **Supporting Documents**

The following documentation is submitted in support of this application:

1. Copy of newspaper advert;
2. East Coast 400 EIAR, Non-Technical Summary, Figures, Appendices and supporting documentation;

We have also provided a copy of the same, along with any confidential chapters, on Pen Drive which is being sent in the mail direct from our consultant.

### **Newspaper Advert**

The application will be advertised locally as follows:

- The Edinburgh Gazette: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February;
- The Press & Journal: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021;
- The Courier: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

The closing date for representations, as stated in the advert, is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.

**Project Website**

The application will be advertised, along with relevant documentation, on the project website:  
<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/east-coast-onshore-400kv-ohl-upgrade/>

**Application fee**

The application fee of £252,000 has been paid via BACS (ref: 929929469).

**Working Hours**

For the avoidance of doubt, as part of any grant of permission, SHE Transmission would seek to ensure that the working hours are covered off as a condition in line with our EA, that being approximately 07:00 to 19:00, for 7 days a week.

Should you have any queries, please contact me using the details above.

Yours faithfully,

Tommy Hart

**Town Planning Specialist**  
**SSEN Transmission**